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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT'S ASH CENTER HONORS  
LEGACY PLAN AS "BRIGHT IDEA"**

**"Innovative" Sustainability Plan Selected as Noteworthy Program and Role Model for  
Other Municipalities**

Burlington, VT – October 21, 2010. The City of Burlington's Legacy Plan has been recognized by the Harvard College Ash Center as a 2010 "Bright Idea." The Bright Ideas Program recognizes innovative government programs and partnerships that can be adopted by government officials and others when faced with their own challenges.

The Burlington Legacy Plan, joined by 173 other innovative efforts from a pool of over 600 applicants, is recognized for the unique way it integrates the aspirations of hundreds of community members. As one of the first sustainability plans in the country, this five-chapter plan is based on the 4 E's of sustainability. While other communities often define sustainability only as "environmental", the Burlington Legacy Plan adds three other E's: economic strength and vitality, social equity, and quality education opportunities for all. "What makes the Burlington Legacy Plan special", says Joe Speidel, Legacy Steering Committee Co-Chair and UVM's Director of Local Government and Community Relations, "is the comprehensive way it captures our community's vision – and integrates all these important elements."

Mayor Kiss applauded recognition of the Legacy Plan's recognition with the potential of the Bright Ideas Program to assist other communities with sustainability planning. "The Legacy Plan and Program's recognition as a Bright Idea will allow other communities across the nation to learn from Burlington's sustainability planning and implementation efforts and will hopefully

encourage others to develop, adopt and implement comprehensive sustainability planning efforts.”

### **City and Steering Committee Committed to Legacy Plan Update**

The Legacy Plan is also recognized because it is overseen by a diverse steering committee, representing key community stakeholders – including UVM, Fletcher Allen Health Care, Champlain College, the Chamber of Commerce and United Way, among others. As a result of this management structure, the Plan is a community document designed to endure beyond change in political leadership. Ten years after the Plan was initially adopted, the Steering Committee and Burlington City Government have committed to reviewing and updating the Plan to ensure that it remains a living, viable and relevant document for years to come.

To review the Plan please visit: <http://burlingtonlegacyproject.org/>. For more information on the Legacy Project and Burlington’s vision for 2030, contact Jennifer Green at [jgreen@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.burlington.vt.us) or call 865-7532. To learn more about the Harvard’s Ash Center or the Bright Ideas Program, visit: <http://ash.harvard.edu/extension/ash/docs/brightideas.pdf>